

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A shoe cleaning apparatus selectively attachable to a rear of a vehicle comprising:

a hitch receiver disposed on an underside of a bumper on the rear of the vehicle, said hitch receiver defining an aperture;

an integrally formed mounting arm having a lower portion comprising a lower horizontal member, a stepped portion and an upper portion comprising an upper horizontal member, said upper portion including at least one mounting aperture formed thereon for aligning with said aperture formed on said hitch receiver of the vehicle, said lower portion defining a lower plane and extending substantially parallel to an upper plane defined by said upper portion;

at least one brush unit coupled to said mounting arm;

a coupling element coupling said mounting arm to the hitch receiver of the vehicle such that said upper portion of said mounting arm locates entirely under said bumper, said coupling element extending through said hitch receiver aperture and said mounting aperture in an installed position;

a linking aperture formed on a rearward end of said lower portion, said linking aperture adapted to cooperate with a tow bar in a towing position for towing a second vehicle; and

a hinge disposed on said lower plane of said lower portion of said mounting arm for moving said brush unit between an operating position and a storage position.

2-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method of moving a shoe cleaning apparatus between an operating position and a storage position, wherein said shoe cleaning apparatus is attached to a vehicle having a hitch receiving portion, the method comprising:

providing a brush assembly having a brush unit thereon;

aligning a mounting aperture on a forward end of said brush assembly with an aperture formed on the hitch receiving portion of the vehicle;

securing said brush assembly to the hitch receiving portion; and

rotating said brush assembly about a hinge disposed on said brush assembly from the operating position substantially parallel to a ground surface to the storage position substantially perpendicular to said ground surface.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein securing said brush assembly includes:

inserting a coupling element through said mounting aperture on said brush assembly and said aperture on said hitch receiving portion; and

securing said coupling element from substantial movement.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

attaching a tow bar coupled to a second vehicle to a linking aperture on said brush assembly.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein attaching a tow bar comprises:

aligning a tow bar aperture with said linking aperture on said brush assembly;

inserting a coupling element through said tow bar aperture and said linking aperture; and

securing said coupling element thereat.

15. (Previously Presented) A shoe cleaning apparatus selectively attachable to a rear of a vehicle comprising:

a hitch receiver disposed entirely on an underside of a bumper on the rear of the vehicle, said hitch receiver defining an aperture;

an integrally formed mounting arm including a lower portion comprising a lower horizontal member, a stepped portion and an upper portion comprising an upper horizontal member;

at least one brush unit coupled to said mounting arm, said brush unit having a frame including a linking aperture formed thereon, said linking aperture arranged outboard of said brush unit and adapted to cooperate with a tow bar in a towing position for towing a second vehicle;

a coupling element coupling said mounting arm to said hitch receiver of the vehicle such that said upper portion of said mounting arm mounts to said hitch receiver such that the entire shoe cleaning apparatus locates entirely under said bumper; and

a hinge disposed on said mounting arm for moving said brush unit between an operating position and a storage position.

16. (Previously Presented) The shoe cleaning apparatus of claim 15 wherein said mounting arm includes at least one mounting aperture formed thereon for aligning with an aperture formed on said hitch receiver of the vehicle.

17. (Previously Presented) The shoe cleaning apparatus of claim 16 wherein said coupling element extends through said hitch receiver aperture and said mounting aperture in an installed position.

18. (Previously Presented) The shoe cleaning apparatus of claim 15 wherein said mounting arm includes a stepped portion for presenting said brush unit in a laterally offset relationship from the hitch receiver of the vehicle.